

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 05074 311304Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 HA-05 EB-08 COME-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 AID-05 ICAE-00 /051 W
-----021219 311308Z /47

P 302201Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8253

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 5074

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, CO
SUBJ: KIDNAPPINGS: COLOMBIAN TEXACO EXECUTIVE ABDUCTED

1. JUAN NICOLAS ESCOBAR SOTO, A COLOMBIAN CITIZEN WHO IS GENERAL MANAGER OF THE LOCAL OFFICE OF THE TEXAS PETROLEUM COMPANY AND PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BANK OF COLOMBIA, WAS KIDNAPPED IN BOGOTA ON MAY 29.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, CONFIRMED TO THE AMBASSADOR BY ANOTHER TEXACO OFFICIAL, SEVERAL ARMED MEN AND TWO WOMEN DRAGGED ESCOBAR STRUGGLING FROM HIS CAR WHICH WAS PARKED AT AROUND NOON ON A BUSY STREET. THE KIDNAPPERS AS YET HAVE MADE NO DEMANDS, AND IT IS NOT CLEAR IF THE ABDUCTION WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED.

3. THE AMBASSADOR AND RSO ARE IN CONTACT WITH THE TOP U.S. EMPLOYEE IN TEXACO'S LOCAL OFFICE TO EXPRESS THE EMBASSY'S CONCERN AND TO OFFER ALL APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE. ESCOBAR, WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY, HAD SPOKEN IN DECEMBER, 1977, TO THE RSO REGARDING AN APPARENT EXTORTION ATTEMPT IN WHICH THE FORMER'S LIFE HAD BEEN THREATENED. THE RSO ADVISED ESCOBAR OF POSSIBLE SECURITY MEASURES, URGED HIM TO ALERT THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, AND LATER MET WITH TEXACO'S LOCAL HEAD OF SECURITY. SO FAR,
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THE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE HAS NOT BEEN REQUESTED IN THE MAY 29 INCIDENT, ALTHOUGH WE EXPECT TO BE CONTACTED BY U.S. TEXACO OFFICIALS WHO, WE UNDERSTAND, ARE ARRIVING TO INVESTIGATE THE ABDUCTION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUSINESSMEN, KIDNAPPING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780227-0306
Format: TEL
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978059/aaaaahhk.tel
Line Count: 60
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8ed2cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Subject: KIDNAPPINGS: COLOMBIAN TEXACO EXECUTIVE ABDUCTED
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, CO, TEXACO, (ESCOBAR SOTO, JUAN NICOLAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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